

House Bill 1214

By: Representative Cummings of the 16th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to
3 provide for a special license plate honoring all veterans who have served in the armed
4 services of the United States; to provide for issuance, renewal, fees, licensing agreements,
5 applications, and transfers relative to such special license plates; to provide for an effective
6 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
11 adding a new Code Section 40-2-86.18 to read as follows:

12 "40-2-86.18.

13 (a) There shall be issued beginning July 1, 2007, special license plates honoring all
14 veterans who have served in the armed forces of the United States. All of these men and
15 women have sacrificed a portion of their lives in order to serve their country and protect
16 our freedom.

17 (b) The commissioner, in cooperation with supporters of this license plate, shall design a
18 special license plate to be issued honoring veterans who have served in the armed forces
19 of the United States. The license plates must be of the same size as general issue motor
20 vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying number, whereby
21 the total number of characters does not exceed six. It shall not be a requirement that a
22 county name decal shall be fixed and displayed on license plates issued under this Code
23 section. The graphic on the special license plate shall be placed to the left of the
24 alphanumeric characters and shall be no larger than three inches by three inches.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section, this Code section shall not be implemented until such time as the State of Georgia has, through a licensing agreement or otherwise, received such license or other permission as may be required to implement this Code section. The design of the initial edition of such special license plate, as well as the design of subsequent editions and excepting only any part or parts of the designs owned by others and licensed to the state, shall be owned solely by the State of Georgia for its exclusive use and control, except as authorized by the commissioner. The commissioner may take such steps as may be necessary to give notice of and protect such right, including the copyright or copyrights. However, such steps shall be cumulative of the ownership and exclusive use and control established by this subsection as a matter of law, and no person shall reproduce or otherwise use such design or designs, except as authorized by the commissioner.

(d) On and after January 1, 2007, any motor vehicle owner who is a resident of Georgia, other than one registering under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with state laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be issued such a special license plate upon application therefor. Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually with a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual registration fee, which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

(e) An applicant may request a veterans license plate any time during the applicant's registration period. If such a license plate is to replace a current valid license plate, the license plate shall be issued with appropriate decals attached.

(f) No special license plate authorized pursuant to this Code section shall be issued except upon the receipt of at least 1,000 applications. The special license plate shall have an application period of two years after January 1, 2007, for payment of the manufacturing fee. After such time if the minimum number of applications is not met, the department shall not continue to accept the manufacturing fee, and all fees shall be refunded to applicants.

(g) The department shall not be required to continue to manufacture the special license plate if the number of active registrations falls below 500 registrations at any time during the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-31. A current registrant may continue to renew such special license plate during his or her annual registration period upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual special tag fee, which fee

1 shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees
2 and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The department
3 may continue to issue such special license plates that it has in its inventory to assist in
4 achieving the minimum number of registrations. If the special license plate falls below 500
5 active registrations at any time during the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of
6 Code Section 40-2-31, manufacture of the license plates shall not be continued until the
7 commissioner receives 1,000 applications.

8 (h) License plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
9 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-42.

10 (i) Veterans license plates shall be issued within 30 days of application."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2007.

13 **SECTION 3.**

14 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.